

## **Cobb Senior Services Launches \$500,000 Campaign for Wellness Center**

Since 1972, Cobb Senior Services (CSS) has enjoyed a reputation in the metro Atlanta area of providing state-of-the-art facilities and excellent services to adults age 55 and better. Using a holistic approach to preventative actions, CSS is realizing its goal of helping seniors in Cobb County stay healthy and maintain their independence for as long as possible.

In spring 2009 Cobb County Government purchased the former Powder Springs Station shopping center with the goal of redeveloping the property and revitalizing the neighborhood. This project includes renovations qualifying for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environment Designs) certification. In addition to the new Senior Wellness Center, the property will house Cobb County Community Development and Property Management offices. Construction on Community Development is nearly completed and work on the Wellness Center may begin as early as fall 2010.

Located just four miles south of the Marietta Square, this unique facility is the first of its caliber in the area and is greatly anticipated by not only the seniors, but also by homeowners and businesses in the surrounding community. It has been championed by the Atlanta Regional Commission for the potential it represents to lead the region in innovative programming for older adults.

The design calls for the Wellness Center to be created with a streetscape concept and will house the existing Marietta Neighborhood Senior Center and CSS Administrative offices, in addition to a new Multipurpose Center and Senior Clinic. A café will allow guests to make healthy meal selections and enjoy a relaxed setting. The dinner theater will provide the opportunity for live entertainment during special events. Clients of Marietta Neighborhood Center will enjoy a screened porch. An art studio, fitness studio and weight room will offer many exciting hours of continued wellness benefits to senior adults. The contracted non-profit clinic will provide services such as vision exams, hearing assessments and foot disease prevention for under-insured seniors. .

Recently, CSS' \$500,000 fundraising campaign was kicked off with the donation of \$12,500 from the Senior Citizen Council of Cobb County, a non-profit organization dedicated to advocating for older adults. The Council purchased naming rights for a classroom, the main "street" (hallway) and the historic stained glass vestibule depicting scenes from Cobb County's past.

"We are excited to fund a portion of this unique Center," states Nysia Lanier, president of the Senior Council. "Council has been involved in the other five Multipurpose Senior Centers and is thrilled to be able to not only help provide a wellness center for older adults, but to be able to link to Cobb's history with the preservation of the beautiful stained glass window."

Pamela Breeden, Executive Director of CSS notes "Throughout the more than 35 year history of CSS, the Senior Citizen Council has supported all of our efforts to enrich the

lives of Cobb's senior population. Their generosity and their advocacy efforts have truly had a great impact.”

Numerous opportunities are still available for the public to join in the fundraising by purchasing bricks, flags and benches. Naming Rights can be purchased for rooms, the patio, the café and more. A complete listing of options can be viewed online at [www.cobbseniors.org](http://www.cobbseniors.org) or by visiting one of the four Multipurpose Centers.

If you or a group you know would like to hear more about this exciting new Senior Wellness Center or other programs and services offered by Cobb Senior Services, please call Kathy Lathem, Resource Development Coordinator, at (770) 528-5355.